

Curriculum & Instruction

UTAH STATE OFFICE
OF
EDUCATION

Curriculum Highlights

Lynne Greenwood, Director
801-538-7828
Administrative Secretary,
Patty Hunt 801-538-7788



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Mary Beth Clark:

Mary Beth Clark, Secondary Language Arts Specialist for the Utah State Office of Education will be retiring June 30, 2009. An open house will be held at the State Office in Mary Beth's honor on Tuesday, June 9, 2009, from 1-3 p.m. Mary Beth graduated from the University of Utah. She has divided her time between the Jordan School District and the Utah State Office of Education. Congratulations!



May: Dates to Remember

29th: Instructional Materials Commission at USOE

Core Academy has accepted registrations from all interested participants. Presenters are putting finishing touches on their presentations and lesson plans. This year's academy should be an outstanding opportunity for elementary teachers throughout the state. The 2009 schedule for Core Academy can be found at: http://www.schols.utah.gov/curr/main/Core_Academy.htm

MSP Grants: Four new MSP (Math/Science Partnership) grants were approved for funding for 2009-2010. The titles and partnerships are: "Northern Utah Science Teaching and Laboratory Initiative" with Utah State University partnering with Logan, Cache, and Box Elder Districts; "Collaborative Program Leading to a Master of Science for Secondary School Mathematics Teachers" with the University of Utah partnering with the Jordan and Canyons School Districts; "Comprehensive Mathematics Instruction" with Brigham Young University and the University of Utah partnering with Alpine, Jordan, Nebo, Provo, and Wasatch School Districts; "CWEST-Connecting with Ecology and Science Teaching" with Salt Lake City School District and University of Utah as partners.

New K-2 Science Core: The State is producing a new K-2 Science Core Curriculum under the guidance of the K-2 Science Advisory and Steering Committees. This work will be under the direction of Dr. Reed Spencer and Susan Okroy, both USOE staff.

The new **K-2 Social Studies Core Curriculum** should be completed in the near future. This work is under the direction of Tom Sutton, USOE Social Studies Specialist, and the K-2 Social Studies Steering Committee.

When the writing of the new K-2 Science and the K-2 Social Studies Core are completed, a new integrated K-2 Core will be developed. It is anticipated that work on the new **K-2 integrated core** will begin the fall of 2009.

The **Elementary Math Endorsement** is being revised. The committee is composed of representatives from USOE, Higher Education, and district personnel from across the state. Once completed, there will be a phase-in period for new requirements. The goal is to provide common syllabi frameworks for those institutions providing math endorsement courses as well as equity of course delivery across the state.

The **Title III Federal Monitoring Visit** was completed at the end of April. Accolades went to Dr. Brenda Burrell, USOE Title III Director, for her work and leadership. USOE will be providing minor modifications to Title III state directives to be in compliance with audit findings. Also, thank you to local districts for their fine work with this Title III audit.

The **Math Steering Committee** is finalizing recommendations to the Utah State Board of Education regarding the opportunity for Utah's students to reach their academic and career potential while increasing Utah's economy by providing graduates who are mathematically well prepared to compete in today's high-tech, complex, and competitive world.

Recommendations will be provided in a document tentatively titled **Is Utah Math Ready?** The document will provide an introduction reviewing current conditions and reflections on what's working and what's not.

Specific recommendations will address, but not be limited to, the following areas:

1. K-16 Alignment
2. Curriculum and Instruction
3. Assessment
4. Teacher Quality
5. Student Learning Processes
6. Culture of Support

